

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 08129 301458Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00  
/031 W

-----013330 301532Z /72

R 301403Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7774

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL  
PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD  
PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. WE HAVE HAD CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH GOK AT ALL  
LEVELS OF THIS MISSION OVER THE PAST DECADE ON THESE  
SUBJECTS. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PRIMARY  
TARGET OF OUR AID STRATEGY AND OUR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES  
HAVE BEEN HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARDS AGRIBUSINESS AND  
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR.

2. WE HAVE IN MANY WAYS BEEN PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED  
IN THIS MATTER. KENYANS HAVE BEEN WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE  
OF FOOD CROP PRODUCTION AND HAVE A NUMBER OF REAL SUCCESSES  
TO SHOW FOR THEIR EFFORTS. KENYAN HAS AT PRESENT AN  
EMBARRASSING SURPLUS OF MAIZE WHICH IS THE BASIC FOOD  
CROP AND IS A NET EXPORTER OF MEAT, VEGETABLES, FRUIT  
AND MILK PRODUCTS. PLANS CURRENTLY IN HAND SHOULD MAKE  
HER SELF SUFFICIENT IN RICE, SUGAR AND VEGETABLE OILS  
IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WHEAT PRODUCTION IS LIMITED TO  
LAND AT 6,000 FEET AND ABOVE, THUS THE AREA DEVOTED  
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TO WHEAT PRODUCTION IS LIMITED. AGATTACHE BELIEVES  
THAT KENYA WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY RELIANT ON  
IMPORTS IN THIS AREA AS INCREASED INCOMES LEAD TO  
DIET CHANGES AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL MAIZE BASE TO A  
WHEAT BASE. NO DOUBT PRODUCTIVITY IN ALL THESE AREAS  
COULD BE INCREASED AND NUMBER OF EXTERNAL DONORS  
INCLUDING OURSELVES, HAVE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST THIS.

3. CURRENTLY, USAID'S SECOND SECTOR OF CONCENTRATION (AFTER AGRICULTURE) IS HEALTH/FAMILY PLANNING WITH PRINCIPAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITH GOK IN THIS SECTOR AND HAVING DIRECT SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL GOK FP PROGRAMS. HERE AGAIN, DIALOGUE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE AND INTENSE BUT PREACHING TO CONVERTED. FAMILY PLANNING PROBLEMS IN KENYA DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO EASY OR QUICK SOLUTIONS BUT GOK IS FACING UP TO THE ISSUE AND IS MAKING PROGRESS AS RAPIDLY CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED. FYI, KENYA WAS FIRST SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY TO ADOPT FP POLICY.

4. WE HAVE NO PARTICULAR INSIGHTS TO OFFER IN WAYS TO STIMULATE OTHER COUNTRIES TO EMULATE KENYA IN THESE TWO MATTERS. HARD, PATIENT WORK AT ALL LEVELS OF THE MISSION PLUS A PRAGMATIC GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM AT HIGH POLITICAL LEVELS SEEMS TO BE THE FORMULA WHICH HAS WORKED HERE. WE DON'T KNOW OF ANY SUBSTITUTE FOR IT.  
BLANE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POPULATION, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, FOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NAIROB08129  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780226-0041  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 83  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 107370  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2751550  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION  
**TAGS:** SPOP, KE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6f912aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014